

GAS NIGHTMARE OF TRENCHES

Former Williams College Professor Describes Horrors.

Most Merciless War in History—No Trace Allowed Even for Burial of Dead—Wounded Die after Days of Agony.

The horrors and tribulations of life in the trenches have been vividly depicted in a letter written from Chateau de Professor Weston, of Williams College, by J. Norton Cru, once professor of French at the same institution, who is serving as a sergeant in the French army. Unmolested and unmolested, Professor Cru scribbled the epistle in an underground passage while the enemy's big shells exploded above.

Gas is the only thing that is really feared in the trenches, according to Mr. Cru, and the forces are kept busily engaged combating gas attack. The war is characterized by him as "the most merciless in history." No truce, even for the burial of the dead, is allowed, and consequently innumerable corpses are rotting as they fell months ago in "no man's land." Extreme difficulty is experienced in producing sufficient quantities of water. When ground is won from the enemy this difficulty is increased because the Germans, knowing the exact locality of the water pumps, keep firing salvoes of shrapnel all around them. As told by Mr. Cru, the soldiers because of the scarcity of water do not wash for weeks, the little procured at great peril being used for making coffee, one cup of which is at times allowed a man.

The letter is as follows: "I am writing you by the flickering light of a candle, seated in a red velvet armchair, dragged out of some ruined house. It is broad daylight above, but I am in a kind of tunnel in the bowels of the earth, access to which is gained by a series of stairs leading down from the trenches. This tunnel is wide enough to accommodate on each side of a central passageway a series of bunk beds, the other shelves, fashion, and some of us are lucky enough to have straw mattresses. And so, away down underground, I am writing tranquilly while big shells are hurdling up above.

"In this vast plain we have little fear of attacks, for it would take time to cross the intervening space between the lines, and our artillery would have plenty of time to act effectively against the assailants. On the other hand, the plain is very favorable for the use of gas, and this is the only thing we fear; consequently, we are busy protecting ourselves against gas attacks, and we have now found many ways of combating this treacherous method of fighting.

"We live as though hygiene had never been invented. I must say that a man thinks little of germs when he is bombarded with big shells, and he eats with appetite, although much dirt has fallen in the soup from the narrow sides of the trenchlike lanes that lead from the kitchen, a mile or two in the rear, to the firing line. Sometimes water has to be fetched from a pump after a long journey through winding trenches; sometimes when the ground has been won from the enemy he knows where the pump is and keeps firing salvoes of shrapnel all around it.

"Now, Champagne is very dry (no pun intended), and we experienced lately the scarcity of water and the decided objections the Germans had to our approaching the pumps. We went unwarmed for two weeks, the little water we got at peril of life being used to make coffee, just one cup a day for each man. Sometimes when I come to think of it I can't

IT'S DEAD EASY

to remember that this agency can give the best in any line of insurance or service connected therewith. The difference between this statement and an "idle boast" is that it's true. It will give us pleasure to show you why.

The T. S. Peck Insurance Agency

INSURANCE—MILEAGES
152—College Street—152
Estab. 1869. Incorp. 1912
Phone 513.

believe that I have been here for more than a year playing my part in the most merciless war in history. "For the first time no truce is allowed, no while flag is used, no possibility of burying the dead or of picking up the wounded, except at peril of life, and that is why so many corpses are rotting as they fell in "no man's land." That is why so many wounded cry vainly for help and are left to die a horrible death after two, four or even six days of agony. I have seen such things and still cannot believe it.

"At the beginning of the war we had to conserve one day with the Moroccans. These are star troops for attack, but they adapt themselves with difficulty to the tranquility of the trenches. That day they took a large number of prisoners whom we saw pass by, pitiful, lamentable, exhausted by our infernal bombardment. I can still see those African heads, their bodies in the rear across the field where big shells were raining down and throwing eruptions of earth into the air. They walked with their rapid, little steps, impassive in the hell.

"I saw the post for the wounded, where a crowd of Africans, dressed as we see them in Tunis, were lying on stretchers and carrying the wounded to the rear. They were to drink the coffee which the nurses poured out for them and smoking cigarettes with a tranquil air, their clothes covered with earth, their bandages red with blood, which filtered through. Others lay stretched out, dying and the whirling of the motors of the Red Cross ambulances ready to carry them to the railway station.

"All this filled and blocked the main street of a little ruined village. The German lines were formerly at the very edge of this village, now they are far back, and out of curiosity I visited what was once our first line. In the wire entanglements I saw what remained of three Germans killed months before. Only skeletons and fragments of uniforms and boots remained."

Don's Rheumatic Pills for Rheumatism and Neuralgia. Entirely vegetable. Safe. (Adv.)

HELD FOR COURT.

Second Cavalrymen Charged with Theft of a Hack.

Fred J. Taylor and John Holmes, members of K troop of the Second Cavalry, stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, were arrested early Friday morning charged with the theft of a hack horse which resulted in their being bound over to the March term of Chittenden county court under bond of \$100 each. They were held to jail from city court, where their case was heard last Friday afternoon. State's Attorney Hopkins prosecuting before Judge J. S. Palmer.

According to the stories told by the several witnesses who appeared against the men, Alexander Seymour left his sleigh, which he used as a hack, in front of the Elks club. When he came out of the club he saw a man in a uniform, Edward Foley, another hackman, who had a man in his back, saw the men driving the rig near the corner of St. Paul and Pearl streets and asked them what they were doing in the hack. They gave him a sharp reply and he wheeled his sleigh to give chase. At this the soldiers jumped from the sleigh which they were in and beat it down Pearl street and over Battery. They were lost to view by those pursuing. The matter was immediately reported to the police and Foley went with Albert Marks to the Winslow bridge. Marks returned with the rig to this city, passing two soldiers armed with rifles, Officer Hart O'Brien back to the bridge and the officer and Foley lay in wait till the two soldiers came along, when they were placed under arrest.

When the men were taken into city court, Friday afternoon they pleaded not guilty. The most damaging testimony given against them was that of Foley, who said he recognized them under the glare of a street lamp. The owner of the rig, Markis, Joel Clemons of Chester, who was the passenger, and Officer O'Brien were also called.

SELLING GOODS AT 89.

James Fenlon of Des Moines Is Dean of Traveling Men.

In the March American Magazine is an account of the dean of traveling men in America, James Fenlon of Des Moines, Iowa. He has held down his job for 55 years and to-day the 89 year veteran continues to "look after his trade" with all the energy and all the success that has characterized his work in his younger days.

Mr. Fenlon gained his title several years ago in a contest conducted by an eastern publication desiring of locating the country's oldest traveling man. For a time he seemed a tough some of the 50 year veterans would carry off the honor, but the aged Iowa finally was convinced that he ought to throw his hat into the ring.

When he started on the road 72 years ago, there was no such individual as a traveling salesman. People just rode on horseback and sold goods.

His trade is the envy of every traveling man who carries a similar line, and the mass of correspondence he takes care of would tax the resources of the ordinary business man. Half an hour after receiving a call he will be on his way to the station to travel half way across the State to get an order.

He has been on the road since 1846, has served in three wars and sold 55,000 windmills.

IF THE BABY IS CUTTING TEETH

be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

WIPING OUT THE ARMENIANS

Description of Their Deportation in Letter from Konla.

From 20,000 to 30,000 Exiles Encamped About Railway Center—Given No Water and Less Than Loaf of Bread a Week Each.

Konla, a city of 25,000 inhabitants, is perhaps the most important railway station in western Turkey. It was at Konla that many of the Armenians, driven from their homes in central and eastern Turkey, were supposed to take the trains for their destinations further south. From 20,000 to 30,000 of these unfortunate creatures, who had been driven from their homes for weeks at a time, with little or no water and with bread served at the rate of a loaf a week for each person, if he was lucky enough to get it.

In Konla is a hospital maintained by foreign money though not under any missionary society. This hospital has done effective relief work for the unfortunate thousands, so far as its resources permitted. The American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions has lately received the following letter from a member of the hospital's staff which adds its evidence as to Turkish cruelty and Armenian misery.

"Soon after the great deportation that preceded the arrival of the new Vail, Miss C. and I drove out to Kachin Han, the first station on the railroad towards Ereğli. Just to follow up the crowd, as a large number had been driven off on foot with the expectation of taking the railroad later on, Kachin Han is about three hours from here by carriage and even nearer to Konla as this we found about 90 people, sitting and lying about the station in utter destitution. They had been there three days; most of them had eaten up all the provisions they had and looked haggard and emaciated, veritable famine victims, such as one sees in pictures occurring in India.

"The train from Konla came along while we were there and most of the people dragged themselves to the cars and endeavored to get on, but were pushed back by the guardsmen, partly because they had no tickets and partly because there was no room. So the poor people turned back bitterly and helplessly to where they had been sitting or lying about the station.

"There is a village an hour or two away from the station and a Turkish baker had driven to the station with bread for sale, but as there was no money to buy, the people looked at it from a distance, while the little children drew near to stare at it wistfully. I bought enough to give each person there a loaf and many declared that it was the first food they had had for three days. Some of the people were intelligent and educated—their sufferings were even greater than those of the illiterate, who were more accustomed to hardships. A woman, desperately sick, had many babies tugging away at the breast and getting nothing, their pathetic cries mingled with the groans of the mothers in physical and mental anguish.

A few miles further on we found a heap of cloths that had been apparently piled together and then scattered, and near it a bundle or rug full of a child's bones—the skull, with scalp still clinging to it—lying a yard or two away—evidently there had been a hasty burial and the dogs had come and torn the grave to pieces and devoured the body. That same day we found another dead body by the roadside—an old woman wrapped in a torn quilt; also a woman about 40 years old sitting alone by the road, miles away from city or village, almost powerless, with feet bare and swollen, and evidently crazed from terror and exposure, muttering something about 'T' who were coming to cut her throat, about her people who had left her behind, and so forth.

"A little further on, lying beside an empty way-side stable, we found an old woman, half naked, powerless, muttering in low tones and with only a few hours to live. We lifted her into the old stable, covered her with an old quilt that we found near her and drove back to the city, weighed down with the thought of the awful suffering that is going on all over the country, especially to the south-east of us, of which we see such terrible examples at every step.

A vivid picture of the state of extermination of the Armenians is thrown by a glance at mortality statistics in the Konla hospital which I have been studying lately. In ordinary years the average mortality from all causes is about four per cent. This year, among 50 to 60 soldiers who were taken to the hospital, 90 per cent. the increase being doubtless due to the lowered vitality of the soldiers in general. The mortality among Armenians—exiles—admitted to the hospital wards has been over 70 per cent, and in this spite of the fact that only the ordinary run of maladies have been reported against them.

"The nation is being systematically done to death by a cruel and crafty method, and their extermination is only a question of time."

FIRST WARD CAUCUS.

Republicans Renominate R. B. Lamson for Alderman—F. E. Kimball for Commissioner.

At ward one republican caucus Thursday George P. Anderson, chairman of the ward committee, read the call. Oscar M. Edwards was made chairman and M. C. Grandin clerk. Alderman Roy B. Lamson was named for another term by J. T. Stearns, and the nomination was made unanimously. S. L. Pliska named F. E. Kimball as school commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Professor Borland, who has moved from the city, and the nomination was made also unanimously. Fred S. Pease was nominated for ward clerk, and D. H. Cameron, Clarence R. White and Henry D. Lacey for inspectors of election. George P. Anderson, Robert Taylor and M. B. Cummings were elected the ward committee. Lew Lewis, S. L. Pliska and Samuel Brisson were elected a ward canvassing committee.

FIVE WARD CAUCUSES.

Charles Caisse, G. J. Gratton, F. W. Baylies, A. V. Kleitch and Victor Bergeron for Aldermen.

Five ward caucuses held Friday evening, three being love feasts, while there were struggles in the second and third wards, the most bloody being that in the famous third. The third ward republican caucus, held in fire station two, was called to order by Fred Barber, who read the call. D. R. Peterson was elected chairman and James J. Kennedy was elected secretary of the meeting. The first business of the meeting was the nomination of a candidate for alderman. Alderman Arsene Boucher, whose term of office expires this year, named Dr. J. E. LaRoque, and the name of Charles

FIGURES FROM CITY REPORT

Estimated Expenses for 1916 Amount to \$402,593.

Receipts May Be \$415,000, Leaving \$231,000 to Be Raised by Taxation—Showing of Departments during 1915.

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Of the several departments the schools naturally took the most money, the amount being \$106,808.00, with an overdraft of \$65.85. Streets, including an overdraft of \$10,600.84 at the beginning of last year, cost \$40,973.95, and there is an overdraft at the end of the year amounting to \$66.57, with unpaid bills aggregating \$11,512.48. The sewer department is in the hole to the extent of \$4,477.57, representing the cost of work in excess of the appropriation and assessments. The overseer of the poor had \$773 left from total receipts of \$16,882. The police department reports an unexpected balance of \$16 from total receipts of \$34,320.

The water commissioners report receipts from water rates to have been \$57,714.48, an increase of \$35,822 over the year 1914, although the purchase for the year, \$22,900.00 gallons, was a decrease of more than 5,000,000 gallons from the previous year. The cost of maintaining the fire department was \$28,975.36. There were 143 alarms, with a total estimated fire loss of \$7,096, on which insurance to the amount of \$30,610 was paid. The health officer reports 533 births and 48 deaths during the year, being 29 more births and 5 less deaths than in 1914. There were 220 marriages during the year.

Mayor Drew in his estimates for the current year includes in the city's resources uncollected taxes believed to be collectible to the amount of \$28,138. electric light accounts, \$1,100; water accounts, \$750; due from electric light plant, \$13,116; street assessments, \$2,832. The liabilities include \$50,000 in temporary loans. The estimated expenses for 1916 amount to \$402,593 and the estimated receipts are \$415,000.

APPROPRIATE IN FRANCE. The Le Ripon building situated on a wharf beside the Seine river, Paris, France, was recently roofed with our Compu-Rubber roofing. Samples free. Strong Hardware Co., Burlington, Vt.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BALL.

Annual Social Function of Burlington Commandery Held Friday Evening.

The annual formal ball of Burlington Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, given Friday night at Masonic Temple will be remembered as one of the most delightful social triumphs of the present season. About 500 knights attended with their ladies, the mingling of the dress uniforms of the order with the attractive and varied evening gown of the ladies against the military decorations set off with palms making an artistic picture of unusual splendor.

The grand march was led by Eminent Commander E. Dana Huntley and Mrs. Huntley, who were followed by the other officers of Burlington commandery, past commanders, Sir Knight C. H. Huntington, visiting knights from other commanderies in the State and their ladies. For the grand march all of the members of the commandery wore the full dress uniform of the order. Following the grand march dancing was enjoyed until intermission at 11:30. This was a turkey dinner with the many dishes, such as a menu was served in the banquet hall with despatch and dexterity by A. H. Davis, assisted by an able corps. Following dinner, dancing was again resumed till the small hours of Saturday morning.

TWO WARD CAUCUSES.

A. A. Tiffany Nominated for Alderman in the Sixth.

The sixth ward republican caucus, which was held at the city hall Saturday evening, proved to be one of the liveliest political gatherings of the present season. The report of the nominating committee, which follows, was adopted: Ward committee, Joseph Fortin, Edward Kane, A. A. Peck, Alex. Croto and C. Maher; inspectors of election, John Taylor, Amos Heininger, the democratic nominee for ward clerk, was endorsed.

FOURTH WARD CAUCUSES.

The fourth ward republican caucus was held in the city court room at 8:30 o'clock. John Taylor reading the call. Frank E. Morgan was elected chairman and A. A. Peck was elected secretary. Victor Bergeron was nominated by a unanimous vote as the party's candidate for alderman. The report of the nominating committee, which follows, was adopted: Ward committee, Joseph Fortin, Edward Kane, A. A. Peck, Alex. Croto and C. Maher; inspectors of election, John Taylor, Amos Heininger, the democratic nominee for ward clerk, was endorsed.

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Josephine Johnson in City Court, Following a Raid.

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Crops That Count

One big crop counts much, but it is the same first-class yield year after year that brings in the money. And to keep your soil rich and fertile, you must restore the food that crops take away—nature's food. Good seed, good crops and good crops are the results of using nature's fertilizer of BONE, BLOOD and MEAT.

Lowell Animal Fertilizers are the right fertilizers because they are made out of BONE, BLOOD, MEAT and high grade chemicals. Lowell Fertilizers not only make one crop grow, but they enrich the soil and make it continually productive.

Try feeding your soil with animal food—it is the very thing to make abundant crops.

See the Lowell agent nearest you. It will pay you to have a talk with him about our fertilizers.

LOWELL FERTILIZER CO., Boston, Mass.

ANIMAL FERTILIZERS

Vermont Notes

News of the State Gathered Here and There.

Cambridge Boasts Two Giants, Father and Son, to Dispute Title of Fred R. Smith.

After all, Fred R. Smith of Bellows Falls is not the tallest man in Vermont, despite his six feet nine inches, according to C. A. Horner of Cambridge. Mr. Smith got married the other day and all accounts of the wedding were not without mention of his height. Now come two to dispute his title, as follows: "I don't wish Mr. Smith to feel small so soon after marriage, but he can no longer hold title to being the tallest man in Vermont, for I have a neighbor who is seven feet. He has a son 18 years of age who stands seven feet one inch. These two giants are H. C. Bogus and son, Max E. Bogus. Young Bogus is as perfectly built a young man as one could wish to see, weighing 220 pounds, and I think if he felt so inclined he would stand a fair chance to wear that much fought for belt, of which Jess Willard is now the proud possessor."

BLINDED, GOES TO INSTITUTION.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Hollister of Bennington have been informed of the appointment by Governor Gates of their son, Walter, to the Austine Institution at Brattleboro for the blind. The boy lost his eyesight in September while pilfering grapes from the garden of Charles Oatman, being shot in the face with a charge of peas from a shotgun. Mr. Oatman, the owner of the garden, who claimed that the shooting was accidental, was made the defendant in a civil suit at the December term of county court and a verdict of \$5,000 damages was returned by the jury. The case has been appealed and until a final judgment is reached the injured boy will be cared for at the expense of the State.

BIG QUARRY TRANSFER AT BARRE.

Deeds have been filed showing the transfer of the Marr and Gordon quarry of the Consolidated Quarry company's holdings to the